

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:RGALLUCCI:MMF

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OES:RSIMKINS

AF:WEATON

ACDA/NWT:TDAVIES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PLANS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT
COOPERATION

REFTEL: (A) PRETORIA 2191, (B) THE HAGUE 3221

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE THE FULL TEXT AND ANY MORE INFORMATION AMEMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ABOUT THE MEANING OF MINISTER OF MINES, DR. KOORNOF, STATEMENT TO PRESS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A THAT SOUTH AFRICA "HAS ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SHARE ITS KNOWLEDGE ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." TAKEN AS PART OF A REQUEST FOR THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES, THE GENERAL OFFER TO "TACKLE URANIUM ENRICHMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING," MAY NOT SUGGEST
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ANY NEW PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT WAS APPARENTLY ISSUED IN

CONJUNCTION WITH AN INVITATION FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN A LARGE SOUTH AFRICAN ENRICHMENT FACILITY, THERE MAY BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN OVER SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS TO SHARE SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW, FOR INSTANCE, IF SHAREHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WILL GAIN ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY BY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCALLY REGISTERED COMPANY WHICH IS TO BUILD AND RUN THE ENRICHMENT PLANT.

2. RESPONSE TO THIS INQUIRY WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO USG ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS IN THIS AREA GENERALLY AND PARTICULARLY TO DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN REFTTEL B. SISCO

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